

Proper Use and Disposal of Needles and Syringes

Be Smart. Be Careful. Be Aware. Be Safe.

If you're one of the many people in Massachusetts who use syringes to manage your health care at home, here's what you need to know about the safe use and disposal of needles, syringes and lancets (sharps).

Be Smart. Use a Sharps Container.

A sharps container is a single-use container that is filled with used medical needles and then disposed of safely. These can be purchased at medical supply stores or even ordered through the mail.

DO NOT put sharps containers in with recyclables.

DO NOT dispose of sharps in garbage if your community has another disposal option (see disposal site list at the end of this fact sheet).^{*} If your community does not currently have a disposal site, place them in a rigid, puncture resistant plastic container with a secure cap before placing in the garbage.

DO visit a medical supply store to purchase sharps containers.

DO call the AIDS Action Committee Pharmacy Access Hotline to find out more about personal sharps containers. 1-800-988-5209

DO check out these sharps mail back services. All provide a variety of container sizes and prepaid mailing cartons:

- Medasend 1-800-200-3581
- Stericycle 1-800-355-8773

Be Careful.

Protect yourself, your community, your environment, and family and friends.

The proper disposal of needles and syringes is important!

DO put used syringes in sharps container immediately.

DO keep needles away from children and pets.

DO bring a sharps container when traveling.

DO NOT throw sharps in the garbage if your community has another disposal option (see disposal site list).

DO NOT flush sharps down the toilet or drop into storm drains.

DO NOT clip, bend or recap needles.

Be Aware.

Needles, syringes and sharps containers may not be thrown in recycling bins. Do not dispose of sharps in garbage if your community has another disposal option (see disposal site list). If you must, place them in a rigid plastic container with a secure cap. These items must be disposed of at a drop off site or through a medical mail back service.

^{*}Effective July 1, 2009, medical waste regulations will not allow the disposal of sharps in household garbage.

Be Safe.

Reduce your risk of blood-borne diseases like hepatitis and HIV/AIDS.

DO use a new needle every time you inject.

DO clean the injection site with soapy water, alcohol swabs or rubbing alcohol.

DO find out your HIV/viral hepatitis status. Get tested. If you are not infected you can stay that way. If you are, find out how to take care of yourself and avoid passing HIV/viral hepatitis to others.

DO clean your sharps with bleach IF you must reuse them.

DO NOT inject in the same spot over and over again.

DO NOT share needles, syringes, cookers, cotton or water.

Be Informed.

Resources are just a phone call away. All calls are confidential.

• AIDS Action Committee Hotline

1-800-235-2331

Referrals to confidential and anonymous HIV counseling and testing

• AIDS Action Committee Pharmacy Access Hotline

1-800-988-5209

• Diabetes Services in Massachusetts

617-624-5486

• Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

617-292-5500

• Massachusetts Department of Public Health

617-624-6000 www.mass.gov/dph

• Massachusetts Hepatitis C Program

1-888-443-HEPC (4372)

www.mass.gov/dph/cdc/masshepc/

• Massachusetts Substance Abuse Education Information and Helpline

1-800-327-5050 TTY 617-536-5872

www.helpline-online.com

Information and confidential referrals to treatment and self-help groups

• Needle Exchange Programs (NEPs)

You can exchange used syringes for new, sterile ones, be referred to medical help, drug treatment, testing for HIV and dispose of used syringes at any of these sites:

Boston

1-617-771-2138

1-800-383-2437

Cambridge

1-617-661-3040

1-617-680-1063

Northampton

1-413-586-0310

1-800-696-7752

Provincetown

1-508-487-8311

1-866-668-6448

Needle Exchange is free to the public.

Information on sharps drop-off sites is also available at: www.mass.gov/dph

Sale and Possession of Hypodermic Syringes and Needles in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (M.G.L. chapter 94C, sections 27, 27A and 32L)

- Individuals 18 years and older may legally purchase syringes and needles from a pharmacy without a prescription.
- Disposal of syringes must be done safely and responsibly.

State Sanitary Code:

(M.G.L. chapter 111, section 127A)

Improper disposal of infectious or physically dangerous medical or biological waste may result in penalties of up to \$25,000 or two years in a corrections facility.

Massachusetts Department of Public Health — March 2008

Syringe and Needle Disposal Sites In the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

as of March 2008

Amesbury	11 School Street Amesbury, MA 01913 978-388-8133	Boston	Boston Public Health Commission 35 Northampton Street Boston, MA 02118 617-534-5395	Charlemont	Franklin County Solid Waste Management District 50 Miles Street Greenfield, MA 01301 413-772-2438
Amherst	Amherst Health Dept. 70 Boltwood, Amherst, MA 01002 413-259-3077	Boston	Boston Public Health Commission 398 Neponset Ave (rear entrance) Dorchester, MA 02122 617-534-5395	Chatham	Chatham Fire & Rescue 135 Depot Road Chatham, MA 02633 508-945-2324
Arlington	Walgreen's Pharmacy 1425 Massachusetts Ave. Arlington, MA 02476 781-646-4171	Boston	Boston Public Health Commission 435 Warren Street (side entrance) Roxbury, MA 02119 617-534-5395	Cotuit	Cotuit Fire Department 64 High Street Cotuit, MA 02635 508-428-2210
Arlington	Walgreen's Pharmacy 324 Massachusetts Ave. Arlington, MA 02474 781-643-4110	Bourne	24 Perry Avenue Buzzards Bay Bourne, MA 02532 508-759-0630	Dennisport	Dennis Health Department 465 Main Street Dennisport, MA 02639 508-760-6158
Arlington	Maida Pharmacy 121 Massachusetts Ave. Arlington, MA 02474 781-643-7840	Boxboro	30 Central Avenue Ayer, MA 01432 978-772-8213	Dunstable	30 Central Avenue Ayer, MA 01432 978-827-4103
Arlington	Stop and Shop 905 Massachusetts Ave. Arlington, MA 02476	Brewster	Brewster Fire Dept. 1657 Main Street Brewster, MA 02631 508-896-7018	East Bridgewater	Town Hall 175 Central Street East Bridgewater, MA 02333 508-378-1612
Athol	584 Main Street, Suite 1 Athol, MA 01331 978-249-7934	Brockton	COPE Center 81 Pleasant St. Brockton, MA 02301 508-583-3405	Eastham	Eastham Fire Department 2520 State Highway Eastham, MA 02642 508-255-2324
Ayer	30 Central Avenue Ayer, MA 01432 978-772-8213	Buzzards Bay	Bourne Fire and Rescue 130 Main Street Buzzards Bay, MA 02532 508-759-4112	Edgartown	P.O. Box 1596 Edgartown, MA 02539 508-627-6120
Barnstable	3195 Main Street County Barnstable, MA 02630 508-375-6613	Cambridge	Cambridge Needle 17 Sellers Street Cambridge, MA 02139 617-559-0219	Fall River	SSTAR Family Health Care Center 400 Stanley Street Fall River, MA 02720 508-679-5222 x3228.
Berlin	30 Central Avenue Ayer, MA 01432 978-772-8213	Centerville	C-O-M-M Fire Headquarters 1875 Falmouth Rd. Centerville, MA 02632 508-790-2375	Greenfield	Franklin County Solid Waste Management District 50 Miles Street Greenfield, MA 01301 413-772-2438
Bolton	30 Central Avenue Ayer, MA 01432 978-772-8213			Groton	30 Central Avenue Ayer, MA 01432 978-448-1120
Boston	A HOPE Needle Exchange Program 723 Massachusetts Avenue Boston, MA 02118-2318 617-534-3963 617-534-3967				

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Harwich	Harwich Transfer Station 209 Queen Anne Road Harwich, MA 02645 508-430-7558	Lynn	Lynn Health Department 3 City Hall Square, Room 103 Lynn MA 01901 781.586.6819 or 6820	Middleborough	Town Hall 20 Centre Street Middleborough, MA 02346 508-946-2408
Harvard	30 Central Avenue Ayer, MA 01432 978-772-8213	Malden	Government Center 200 Pleasant Street Malden, MA 02148 781-397-7053	Montague	Franklin County Solid Waste Management District 50 Miles Street Greenfield, MA 01301 413-772-2438
Haverhill	CVS Pharmacy River's Edge Plaza 241 Lincoln Ave. Haverhill, MA 01830 978-372-0291	Manchester	10 Central Street Manchester, MA 01944 978-526-7385	Nashoba Boards of Health	30 Central Avenue Ayer, MA 01432 ** 978-772-4947
Haverhill	Team Coordinating Agency 66 Winter Street Haverhill, MA 01830 978 373-1181 x21	Marblehead	Board of Health Mary Alley Municipal Building 7 Widger Road Marblehead, MA 781-631-0212	Needham**	1471 Highland Avenue Room 24 Needham, MA 02192 781-455-7523
Heath	Franklin County Solid Waste Management District 50 Miles Street Greenfield, MA 01301 413-772-2438	Marlborough	Bouvier Pharmacy 515 Lincoln Street Marlborough, MA 01752 508-485-0432	New Bedford	Home of Hope for Women, Outreach Center 1287 Acushnet Ave. New Bedford, MA 02746 508-996-0546
Holyoke	Holyoke Health Center Pharmacy 230 Maple Street Holyoke, MA 01041 413-420-2200	Marlborough**	Walker building 255 Main St., Room 103, Marlborough, MA 01752 508-460-3751	New Salem	Franklin County Solid Waste Management District 50 Miles Street Greenfield, MA 01301 413-772-2438
Hull	253 Atlantic Avenue Hull, MA 02045 781-925-2224	Marion	Town Hall 2 Spring Street Marion, MA 02738 508-748-3505	Northampton	Tapestry Health Needle Exchange 16 Centre Street, Suite 401 Northampton, MA 01060 413-586-0310
Hyannis	P.O. Box 534 Hyannis, MA 02601	Mashpee	Mashpee Department of Public Works 350 Meetinghouse Road Mashpee, MA 02649 508-539-1420	Orange	Franklin County Solid Waste Management District 50 Miles Street Greenfield, MA 01301 413-772-2438
Lee**	Railroad Street Lee, MA 01238 413-243-5540	Medfield	Town Hall 459 Main Street Medfield, MA 02052 508-359-8505	Orleans	Orleans Fire Department 58 Eldredge Park Way Orleans, MA 02653 508-255-0050 508-240-3700 Ext-351
Lenox**	Railroad Street Lee, MA 01238 413-243-5540	Melrose	Melrose City Hall 562 Main Street Melrose, MA 02176 781-979-4133 781-979-7696 (f)	Pittsfield	70 Allen St. Pittsfield, MA 01201 413-499-9411
Littleton	30 Central Avenue Ayer, MA 01432 978-772-8213	Methuen	Municipal Building 90 Hampshire Street Methuen, MA 01844 978-794-3229		
Lunenburg	30 Central Avenue Ayer, MA 01432 978-772-8213				

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Plympton	5 Palmer Road Plympton, MA 02367 781-585-7000	Shirley	30 Central Avenue Ayer, MA 01432 978-772-8213	Truro	Truro Transfer Station Truro Dump Road, Off Rte. 6 Truro, MA 02666 508-349-6339
Provincetown	AIDS Support Group of Cape Cod/Needle Exchange Program 336 Commercial Street #10 Provincetown, MA 02657 508-487-8311	South Hadley	Council on Aging 45 Dayton Street South Hadley, MA 01075 413-538-5042	Tyngsborough	25 Bryants Lane Tyngsborough, MA 01879 (978) 649-2300 Ext. 118
Provincetown	Provincetown Fire Department 25 Shank Painter Road Provincetown, MA 02657 508-487-7023 508-487-7020	South Yarmouth	Barnstable County- South Yarmouth 96 Old Main Street South Yarmouth, MA 02664 508-398-2212	Wareham	Healthcare of Southern Massachusetts 106 Main Street, 2nd floor Wareham, MA 02571 508-295-0383
Quincy	Quincy Health Department 1585 Hancock St. Lower Level Quincy, MA 02169 617-376-1273	Spencer	Spencer Health Department – Memorial Town Hall 157 Main Street Spencer, MA 01562 508-885-7500 x180	Watertown	Administration Bldg. Health, Fire Department 149 Main Street Watertown, MA 02472 617-972-6446 Call for drop-off schedule
Randolph	Board of Health 1 Turner Lane Randolph, MA 781-961-0924	Spencer	Spencer Police Department 9 Dewey Street (Rte. 9) Spencer, MA 01562 508-885-6333	Wellfleet	Wellfleet Fire Department 35 Lawrence Road Wellfleet, MA 02667 508-349-3754
Reading	16 Lowell St. Reading, MA 01867 781-942-9061	Spencer	Spencer Fire Department 11 Dewey Street Spencer, MA 01562 508-885-7533	West Newbury	381 Main Street West Newbury, MA 01985 978-363-1100, ext 119
Rehoboth	148R Peck St., Rehoboth, MA 02769 508-252-3099	Springfield	La Voz Tapestry Health 39 Mulberry Street Lower Level Springfield, MA 01105 413-734-8766	Westport	856 Main Road Westport, MA 02790 508-636-1015
Revere	Revere Health Department 249R Broadway Revere, MA 02151 781-286-8176	Stockbridge**	Railroad Street Lee, MA 01238 413-243-5540	Worcester**	25 Meade Street Worcester, MA 01610-2715 508-799-8531
Rowe	Franklin County Solid Waste Management District 50 Miles Street Greenfield, MA 01301 413-772-2438	Templeton	Town Office 2 School Street Baldwinville, MA 01436 978-939-2377	Yarmouth	1146 Route 28 S. Yarmouth, MA 02664 508-398-2231, Ext. 241
Rowley	PO Box 783 Rowley, MA 01969 978-948-2231	Townsend	Board of Health 272 Main Street Townsend, MA 01469 978-597-1713 (curbside pick-up)	** Sharps disposal may be held at household hazardous waste collections, or programs under development	
Seekonk	Household Hazardous Waste Day 100 Peck Street Seekonk, MA 02771 508-336-2950 Only once a year	Tri-town Health (Lee, Lenox, Stockbridge)**	Railford Street, Lee, MA 01238 413-243-5540		

Please contact individual sites for specific disposal schedules.